



SEMS DocID: 2332347

ORIGINAL  
(Red)

TO: G CRYSTALL ( CRYSTALL.G )  
TO: STEPHEN LUFTIG ( LUFTIG.STEPHEN )  
TO: RRC ( RRC )  
TO: JACK OWENS ( OWENS.JACK )  
TO: REGION TAT ( REGION03.TAT )

Subject: POLREP #1 AND FINAL GENERAL SCIENCES LABORATORY

POLREP #1 AND FINAL  
GENERAL SCIENCES LABORATORY  
205 SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD  
FRANCONIA, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA  
CERCLA EMERGENCY RESPONSE  
ATTN: GREGG CRYSTALL AND STEPHEN LUFTIG

I. SITUATION (SATURDAY, 08/17/91, 1200 HOURS)

- A. AT 1505 ON 08/16/91 THE SOUDERTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT (SVFD) RESPONDED TO A FIRE AT THE GENERAL SCIENCES LABORATORY IN FRANCONIA, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA.
- B. THE RESPONSE TURNED INTO A MULTI ALARM CALL AFTER THE INITIAL SIZE UP WAS COMPLETED BY THE SVFD.
- C. THE FIRE WAS DECLARED UNDER CONTROL AT 1800 HOURS 08/16/91, AND THE LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICES COORDINATOR, DENNIS MOYER, CONTACTED THE EPA REGION III DUTY OFFICER TO REQUEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING THE MATERIALS FOUND ON SCENE.
- D. GENERAL SERVICES LABORATORY PERFORMED CLASSIFIED CONTRACTED WORK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD).
- E. OSC OWENS NOTIFIED THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM TO RESPOND AT 1845 HOURS.
- F. THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM ARRIVED ON SCENE AT 1945 HOURS.

II. ACTIONS TAKEN

- A. AT 2040 HOURS A BRIEFING WAS HELD WITH ON SCENE PERSONNEL TO OUTLINE RECENT ACTIONS AND TO PLAN RESPONSE ACTIVITIES. ACCORDING TO LOCAL RESPONDING PERSONNEL THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS WERE IN THE LAB: TITANIUM, BORON, CLASS A EXPLOSIVES, FLAMMABLE SOLIDS, SULFUR, POWDERED METALS AND FIRE WORKS. THE FIRE CHIEF REPORTED THAT TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM DOD WERE ON SCENE TO REMOVE CONFIDENTIAL FILES PURSUANT TO THE CONTRACTED RESEARCH.
- B. OSC RECOMMENDED THAT AN AIR MONITORING SURVEY BE CONDUCTED PRIOR TO CLOSURE OF THE BUILDING.

- C. AT 2130 HOURS TAT CONDUCTED A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT USING DIRECT READING INSTRUMENTATION, BUT WERE UNABLE TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY DUE TO LIMITED LIGHT AND FIRE CONDITIONS. ELEVATED READINGS WERE NOTED ON THE FLAME IONIZATION DETECTION INSTRUMENT.
- D. THE INCIDENT COMMANDER REQUESTED THAT THE OSC RETURN WITH THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM IN DAYLIGHT CONDITIONS TO COMPLETE THE AIR MONITORING ASSESSMENT.
- E. THE OSC RECOMMENDED THAT SECURITY BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE EVENING UNTIL THE ASSESSMENT COULD BE CONCLUDED. THE INCIDENT COMMANDER ARRANGED FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIRE POLICE TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THE FACILITY.
- F. OSC AND TAT DEPARTED THE SCENE AT 2330 HOURS ON 08/16/91.
- G. OSC AND TAT RETURNED TO THE SCENE AT 0800 HOURS ON 08/17/91.
- H. AN ENTRY BY TAT PERSONNEL REVEALED ELEVATED READINGS ON FID AND PID DETECTION INSTRUMENTS. PARTICULATE READINGS THREE TIMES BACKGROUND WERE ALSO OBSERVED IN THE BUILDING.
- I. SEVERAL PRESSURE CYLINDERS (ARGON AND OXYGEN) REMAINED INSIDE THE FACILITY, ALONG WITH 1-55 GAL OF UNKNOWN MATERIAL, 1-30 GAL DRUM OF FLAM. SOLIDS AND NUMEROUS LABORATORY CONTAINERS WERE FOUND SCATTERED IN THE DEBRIS. NO SIGNIFICANT READINGS WERE OBTAINED AT ANY OF THE REMAINING CONTAINERS.
- J. ENTRY PERSONNEL IDENTIFIED A REMAINING HOT SPOT FOR FIRE PERSONNEL TO EXTINGUISH.
- K. BASED UPON AIR READINGS, THE OSC RECOMMENDED THAT MOP UP OPERATIONS BE CONDUCTED USING SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS.
- L. THE FIRE MARSHAL AND LOCAL EMA REP. REQUESTED A COPY OF THE FINAL REPORT BE SENT REGARDING EPA'S ASSESSMENT.

### III. FUTURE PLANS

- A. NO FURTHER ACTIONS ARE ANTICIPATED AT THIS TIME.

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JACK OWENS, OSC  
EPA REGION III  
PHILADELPHIA, PA